

The Wider Horizon

National Events

Feb 1 Chinese new year - the year of the ox. **2** Candlemas day. **6** Waitangi day New Zealand's national day, commemorating the signing of the treaty of Waitangi on 6 Feb. 1840. **6** Queen's accession gun salutes in London & Windsor. **14** Valentine's Day - for lovers & florists everywhere. **18** Brits awards - shown on itv1. **18-22** Jorvik Viking festival - Viking festival in York - battle re-enactment and Viking market. **24** Shrove Tuesday (pancake day) a feast to eat those foods that can't be kept for 40 days: eggs and milk were used by adding flour and frying them to make pancakes. In France the day is called Mardi Gras, meaning "Fat Tuesday". **25** Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the 40-day period known as lent (excluding Sundays). **27** Kissing Friday (the Friday after ash Wednesday) on this Friday of shrove week, English schoolboys were entitled to kiss girls without fear of punishment or rejection, a custom that lasted until at least the 1940s. **Mar 1** St David's day - the "patron saint" of Wales. A member of the Celtic church who died on 1st march 589 a.d. **5** St Piran's day - celebrations all over Cornwall **5-8** Crufts - famous annual British dog show which started in 1928. Held at Birmingham NEC **6-15** National science and engineering week special events across the UK to celebrate science, engineering and technology **9** Commonwealth day - an annual event (on the second Monday of march) - all the members of the commonwealth celebrate their links with one another. **13** Red nose day - fun events across the UK - the first red nose day was in 1988 - shown on BBC **17** St Patrick's day - public holiday in Ireland. Born in north England or southern Scotland captured under roman occupation, made into a slave, and taken to Ireland, where he worked as a shepherd. He escaped on a boat, but later came back to Ireland and worked to convert the Irish people to become Christians, died on 17th march 461 ad **20 - Apr 13** Ideal Home show - an annual exhibition about home improvement **20** Spring equinox - day and night are each 12 hours **22** Mother's day - celebrate & think about your mum - another event loved by card shops & florists. Celebrated on a different date outside the UK. **22** Simnel Sunday - fourth Sunday in lent when Simnel cakes are eaten. **28/29** British summer time (BST) starts - change all clocks forward lose one hour's sleep. **29** Oxford/Cambridge boat race - an annual

university boat race on the Thames in London between Oxford university (the "dark blues") and Cambridge university (the "light blues"). The teams toss a coin to choose which side of the river they start (the north side is "Middlesex", and the south side is "Surrey" - the names of the counties on each river bank. The first contest took place in 1829.

Sport

Feb 1 American football: Superbowl xxxiii **4-8** cricket: first test, Jamaica: West Indies v England **6** Rugby league: super league season starts **7-8** Rugby union: 6 Nations **11** Football: world cup qualifiers **13-17** Cricket: second test, Antigua: West Indies v England **14** Football: FA cup fifth round **14-15** Rugby union: 6 Nations **14-15** Athletics: European trials & UK championships **24-25** Football: Champions league 1st knockout round 1st legs **26 - Mar 2** Cricket: third test, Barbados: W Indies v England **27-28** Rugby union: 6 Nations **Mar 1** Football: Wembley: carling cup final **6-10** cricket: fourth test: West Indies v England **6-8** Tennis: Davis cup, Glasgow: Great Britain v Ukraine **7** Football: FA cup sixth round **10-11** Football: Champions league first knockout round 2nd legs **14-15** Rugby union: 6 Nations **15** Cricket: twenty20 international: West Indies v England **20** Cricket: first ODI: West Indies v England **21** Rugby union: 6 Nations **22** Cricket: second ODI: West Indies v England **27** Cricket: third ODI: West Indies v England **28** Football: World cup qualifiers **29** Football: cricket: fourth ODI: West Indies v England

Notable Birthdays

Feb 1 Boris Yeltsin & Clark Gable **4** Alice Cooper & Natalie Imbruglia **7** Chris Rock & Charles Dickens **8** Jack Lemmon & Jules Verne **12** Naseem Hamed & Abraham Lincoln **18** Molly Ringwald & Matt Dillon **21** Charlotte Church & Nina Simone **26** Johnny Cash & Levi Strauss **Mar 2** Chris Martin & Jon Bon Jovi **7** Rik Mayall & Lord Snowdon **8** Aidan Quinn & Micky Dolenz **14** Pam Ayres & Michael Caine **21** Ronaldinho & Gary Oldman **26** Keira Nightly & Steven Tyler **30** Norah Jones & Vincent van Gogh

Food in Season

Feb halibut, guinea fowl, mussels, cabbage, chicory, goose, leeks, squash, parsnips, shallots, lobster, forced rhubarb, celeriac **Mar** radishes, parsley, sardines, carrots, purple sprouting broccoli, sorrel, beetroot, mint.